

From: Hubbard, Joseph
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 9:14 AM
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1 – A new environmental dispute brews between feds and Texas over water, Austin Statesman, 8/12/2014

<http://readingeagle.com/ap/article/a-new-environmental-dispute-brews-between-feds-and-texas-over-water>

Foretelling a new environmental battle between state and federal regulators, Attorney General Greg Abbott this week demanded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency back down from a proposal to expand the definition of federal waters to include seasonal and rain-dependent waterways. The proposal “is without adequate scientific and economic justification and, if finalized, would erode private property rights and have devastating effects on the landowners of Texas,” he wrote Monday as part of a public comment period on the proposal, threatening to sue if it’s not withdrawn.

2 - Clean-coal technology can be a climate saver, Albq Journal, 8/13/14

<http://www.abqjournal.com/444945>

If you believe that advances in clean coal technology can play a pivotal role in preventing the worst effects of climate change – and I do – then you’ll be interested to know that America is well-positioned to take the lead on multiple fronts.

3 – Special meetings not needed to address funding for St. Tammany fracking fight, Parish Council member says, Times Picayune, 8/12/14

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/08/special_meetings_not_needed_to.html

Special meetings of the Parish Council and its Finance Committee won't be needed this week to consider additional funding for St. Tammany's legal fight to block fracking in the parish, Councilman Steve Stefancik said Tuesday (Aug. 12). The council last week wrangled over a resolution to allocate \$75,000 more to the legal effort, but it was unable to get a unanimous vote of its members to formally consider the measure, which was not on the council's regular agenda.

4 – Groups to EPA: Stop muzzling science advisers, News9 OK, 8/12/14

<http://www.news9.com/story/26260817/groups-to-epa-stop-muzzling-science-advisers>

Journalist and scientific organizations accused the Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday of attempting to muzzle its independent scientific advisers by directing them to funnel all outside requests for information through agency officials.

5 – During Drought, Once-Mighty Texas Rice Belt Fades Away, State Impact Texas, 8/12/14

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2014/08/12/during-drought-once-mighty-texas-rice-belt-fades-away/>

In 2012, some farming districts on the Lower Colorado River were cut off from water for irrigation for the first time. Reservoirs were too low to flood tens of thousands of rice fields. Some asked, “Why would anyone be farming rice in Texas in the first place?”

6 – Nominations open through Tuesday: Send the name of an environmental startup that warrants a story, Times Picayune, 8/11/14

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/08/nominations_remain_open_throug.html#incart_river

We will continue taking reader nominations through Tuesday for environmentally oriented New Orleans area startups, one of which readers will select for a feature article taking a closer look at the work they do.

7 – San Antonio Mulls \$3 Billion Water Supply Project, Texas Tribune, 8/13/2014

<http://www.texastribune.org/2014/08/13/san-antonio-mulls-3-billion-addition-water-supply/>

Depending on whom you ask, San Antonio might either be on the cusp of securing its water future at a relatively low cost, or it is pinning most of its hopes on a multibillion-dollar boondoggle that could diminish the water supply for fast-growing Central Texas and wouldn't deliver what San Antonio expects.

8 – Obama Administration Talks Energy Development, ChemInfo, 8/12/2014

<http://www.chem.info/news/2014/08/obama-administration-talks-energy-development>

The potential for renewable energy development in the Southwest is tremendous, but two top officials in President Barack Obama's administration said Monday much work needs to be done to meet the challenges of exporting that power to market.

9 – Pegasus Pipeline's Partial Restart Concerns Some Texans, Texas Tribune, 8/12/2014

<http://www.texastribune.org/2014/08/12/pegasus-pipelines-partial-restart-worries-some-tex/>

The reactivation of the southern segment of the Pegasus pipeline is stirring concerns among Texans living along its ruptured northern leg. The 66-year-old pipeline, operated by the ExxonMobil Pipeline Company, had been fully shut off since a March 2013 rupture, which sent at least 210,000 gallons of heavy Canadian crude into neighborhood streets in Mayflower, Ark., prompting evacuations of nearly two dozen homes and leaving residents sick.

10 – Victoria headed toward Stage 3 in drought plan despite lightning storm, Victoria Advocate, 8/13/2014

http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2014/aug/12/water_exchange_ss_081314_246428/?news

Victoria likely will head into Stage 3 of its drought plan within the next two weeks, according to city officials. If the river levels do not rise, the city will begin its surface-water-for-groundwater exchange, Public Works Director Lynn Short said. The exchange also signals Stage 3 of the drought plan, which limits the days when residents can water their yards.

11 – Seismic History Check Proposed by Texas For Applicants for Disposal Well Permits, BNA, 8/12/2014

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=51460114&vname=denotallissues&id=a0f4n9j5d1&split=0

Texas oil and gas operators will be required to investigate an area's seismic history prior to drilling a new waste disposal well, and state regulators will have authority to shut down disposal wells linked to earthquakes, under amendments to disposal well rules approved Aug. 12 by the Texas Railroad Commission.

12- Texas looking for compromise on fracking-earthquake rules, Energywire, 8/13/14

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/08/13/stories/1060004415>

The Texas oil and gas industry yesterday signaled its openness to proposed state rules that would allow disposal wells to be shut down if they're suspected of causing earthquakes. Reviews from environmental groups and were mixed, but they applauded the Texas Railroad Commission for taking action on the issue of quakes linked to drilling.

13- State agency OKs new rules for injection wells, Star-Telegram, 8/12/14

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2014/08/12/6037332/railroad-commission-publishes.html?rh=1>

After a rash of earthquakes in North Texas that some say are connected to fracking, the Texas Railroad Commission approved proposed rules Tuesday that require drillers to provide additional information before sinking injection wells in areas where there has been seismic activity.

14- State regulators propose changes following North Texas earthquakes, Dallas Morning News, 8/12/14
<http://trailblazersblog.dallasnews.com/2014/08/state-regulators-propose-changes-following-north-texas-earthquakes.html/>

State oil and gas regulators proposed stricter guidelines for injection wells Tuesday in response to a rash of earthquakes near Dallas-Fort Worth less than a year ago. The suggested changes would require oil and gas companies to provide more information in their permit applications for underground disposal wells used to store waste from oil and gas drilling, including data from the U.S. Geological Survey about area fault lines, past earthquake activity and geologic mapping.